



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DOH CITES WASTE MANAGEMENT OF HAWAII AND
CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU**
Waimanalo Gulch Landfill Permit Violations

HONOLULU – The Department of Health (DOH) has issued a notice of violation and order against Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc. (WMH) and the City and County of Honolulu (City) for violations of their joint permit and State solid waste management rules in the operation of Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill (WGSLF). DOH alleges that WMH and the City committed 18 types of violations over a two year period and the Department has imposed an Administrative penalty of \$2.769 million dollars.

Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health said, “These are serious violations that warrant a large penalty. Exceeding the permitted height and excessive leachate at the bottom of the landfill raised serious concerns that the department worked on at length to resolve last year, and the failure to cover solid waste daily violated a basic principle of landfill management. Failures to report violations on time are serious because they hurt the department’s ability to monitor the landfill and deal with problems early.”

During a six-month investigation of the WGSLF, the DOH cited major violation of overfilling areas of the ash monofill and municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill above permitted heights for over a year.

Additional violations include:

- Failure to place daily soil cover on the active MSW landfill workforce on at least 27 days
- Failure to submit annual operating reports in a timely manner
- Failure to report the overfilling in a timely manner
- Failure to place intermediate soil cover on the ash monofill for over a year
- Allowing excessive leachate (liquids) in landfill sumps for over 120 days
- Failure to measure and maintain records of leachate levels in landfill sumps for over a year
- Failure to record the location of asbestos disposal and maintain records for over six months
- Failure to monitor methane gas and maintain records for two years
- Failure to comply with other conditions of the Solid Waste Management Permit, Special Conditions

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In addition to a \$2.769 million administrative penalty, the DOH ordered the WMH and the City to develop plans to ensure compliance with the permit and state solid waste rules for the cited violations, provide monthly and/or quarterly records of the facility operations, and to immediately come into compliance with facility's permit conditions.

WMH and the City have twenty days to challenge the order. If they do, a hearing will be scheduled later.

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